Increase in the prices of edible oils

241. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

SHRi V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state-.

(a) what had been the average prices of edible oils during the last three years; yearwise and oil wise;

(a) whether any steps have been taken to bring down the price of edible oils; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN): (a) the average wholesale prices of edible oils at important centres during the last three oil years (Nov.—Oct.), yearwise and oilwise are as under:

(Rs./Quintal)

Oil	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Groundnut (Bombay)	2256	2109	2691
Mustaid (Karpur)	2088	1643	2098
Sesame (Bombay)	2009	1893	2443
Cottonseed (Bombay)	1960	1854	2324
Soyabean (Delhi)	1866	1761	2238

4 b) and (c) Among other measures taken to check the prices are:

(i) Excise rebate allowed on usage of minor/non-traditional oils.

(ii) The stock limits of edible oils (including hydrogenated vegetable oils) with wholesalers and retailers have been reduced.

(iii) The stock limits of edible oils and vanaspati with the producers have been halved.

(iv) The State Governments have been advised to undertake dehoarding operations on regular basis to enforce the reduced stack limits;

(v) To improve the availability and acceptability of edible oils, blending of one conventional edible oil with one refined non.coven-tional oil (e.g. soyabean, cottonseed, safflower oils) has been permitted.

(vi) The permision to use upto 20 per cent expeller mustard/RS oil in the manufacture of vanaspati has been withdrawn, to ease the price pressure on mustard oil.

Adverse **effect on Tourism in Kashmir Valley due to Terrorism**

242. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(b) whether it is a fact that tourist flow to the Kashmir Valley has been badly affected by the Terrorism in the State;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Kashmiri inhabitants who were dependent on Tourist trade are on the verge of starvation; and

• (c) if so, what action Government proposes to take to help such Kashmiri people?